

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-05

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: COUNTRY FINANCED SERVICE - HIGHER EDUCATION

REF: LAGOS 5519, STATE 163519

1. MEMBERS OF THE GON NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION
HEADED BY DR. JIBRIL AMINU, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, HAVE
CONCLUDED THEIR VISIT TO U.S. UNIVERSITIES AND EDUCATIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS. PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION'S VISIT WAS TO

1) EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR RECRUITING U.S. EDUCATORS
AND ADMINISTRATORS FOR SERVICE IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES
2) EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY FOR ESTABLISHING AN ACADEMIC
EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND 3) URGE EXPATRIATE NIGERIANS IN THE
U.S. TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND WITH INDUCEMENTS OF JOBS
AND FAVORABLE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

2. COMMISSION MEMBERS VISITED BOTH U.S. AND CANADA. A
SEPARATE NIGERIAN TEAM HAS VISITED THE U.K. AND W. GERMANY
ON A SIMILAR MISSION BUT WITHOUT NOTABLE SUCCESS, ACCORDING
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TO DR. AMINU.

3. AID/SER/CFS MET WITH DR. AMINU AT A MEETING CALLED BY THE OVERSEAS LIAISON COMMITTEE (OLC) OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (ACE) FOR A SUMMING UP ON DR. AMINU'S U.S. VISIT.

4. DR. AMINU REPORTED THAT HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. WAS BOTH ENLIGHTENING AND ENCOURAGING BUT HIS CENTRAL PROBLEM FROM BOTH THE ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE POINT OF VIEW IS FAR FROM SOLUTION DESPITE THE SENSE OF URGENCY WHICH INITIATED THE COMMISSION'S MISSION TO THE U.S. HE SAID THE COMMISSION NEEDS PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM A TEAM OF U.S. EDUCATORS TO IDENTIFY THE FACULTY NEEDS OF THE NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES. THE TEAM SHOULD VISIT NIGERIA IN THE FALL OF 1976 AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE COMMISSION IDENTIFY THE NEED FOR A COMPARATIVELY LONG TERM PLAN FOR SELECTION AND PLACEMENT OF U.S. EDUCATORS TO SERVE IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES. THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FACULTY IN NIGERIA IS PRESSING NOT ONLY TO AUGMENT CURRENT STAFFS BUT TO FILL FUTURE FACULTY REQUIREMENTS AS NEW INSTITUTIONS ARE OPENED. (NIGERIA PLANS TO VIRTUALLY DOUBLE THE CURRENT NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION).

5. THE ACE HAS AGREED TO ASSIST IN ASSEMBLING A TEAM OF EDUCATORS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMISSION, AND THE DETAILS COULD BE WORKED OUT SOON AFTER DR. AMINU'S RETURNS TO NIGERIA.

6. CFS RE-STATED AID'S WILLINGNESS TO COLLABORATE WITH ACE AND THE COMMISSION IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUNDING THE U.S. TEAM UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SEC 661 IF A REQUEST IS RECEIVED FROM THE COMMISSION AND IF THE U.S. EMBASSY LAGOS HAS CONCURRED. DR. AMINU UNDERSTOOD THE TERMS OF AID ASSISTANCE WHICH, UNDER CFS, ARE NOT PART OF THE REGULAR CONCESSIONAL PROGRAM BUT RATHER A MEANS OF SUSTAINING A MUTUALLY DESIRED CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT RELATIONSHIP BY FACILITATING PROGRAMS WHICH WILL LEAD TO PURCHASE OF U.S. TECHNICAL SERVICES AND OR COMMODITIES. DR. AMINU APPRECIATED THIS COLLABORATIVE APPROACH AND IS CONVINCED AS A RESULT OF HIS VISIT THAT A TEAM VISIT (WHOSE TERMS OF REFERENCE WILL BE PREPARED JOINTLY BY THE COMMISSION AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ACE) IS ESSENTIAL IN HELPING DEFINE THE REQUIREMENTS BEFORE AN ACTIVE AND VIABLE RECRUITMENT PROGRAM IN THE U.S. CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY UNDERTAKEN.

7. DR. AMINU WILL CALL ON U.S. EMBASSY SOON AFTER HIS RETURN TO LAGOS ON JULY 12 TO DISCUSS HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. AND HIS PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION FOR U.S. - GON COLLABORATION IN MEETING GON NEED IN HIGHER EDUCATION. KISSINGER

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